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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JEFFERSON FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY HOLDERS TO RECEIVE 5% DISCOUNT

County Named a CRS Community

All flood insurance policy holders in Jefferson County that are outside of the municipalities will receive a 5% discount on flood insurance policies that are purchased or renewed after October 1, 2006, due to the efforts of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security, Jefferson County Planning, Zoning and Engineering and the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management on behalf of the Jefferson County Commission.

“I want to congratulate your community on its application to the National Flood Insurance Program’s (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). The voluntary actions undertaken by your community exceeding the minimum standards of the NFIP have been verified and meet the requirements for a Class 9 rating.

The reward for your community’s activities is a five percent discount for NFIP policies issued or renewed in Special Flood Hazard Areas on or after October 1, 2006. This saving is a tangible result of the flood mitigation activities your community has implemented that protect lives and property.” Stated David I. Maurstad, Director of FEMA’s Mitigation Division in a letter received last week by the Jefferson County Commission.

Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security Coordinator, Barbara Miller, who is also Jefferson County's CRS Coordinator, stated that the County has been working towards this goal for the past four years in order to reduce the cost of flood insurance to the County Commission's constituency, as well as, to make the community safer against future flooding events. Requirements had to be met regarding elevation certificates, map information, outreach projects, hazard disclosure, flood protection information, open space preservation, higher regulatory standards, flood data maintenance, stormwater management, floodplain management planning, flood warning program, and dam safety.

Jefferson is the only County in West Virginia that has been awarded this recognition and discount to their policy holders in return for their commitment to higher standards in floodplain management and prevention. Roger Goodwin, who is an engineer for Jefferson County Planning, Zoning and Engineering and Barbara Miller, Coordinator of Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security are both nationally certified floodplain managers (CFMs), which contributes additional points toward the CRS application. There are 27 CFMs in West Virginia. Four of those are in the Eastern Panhandle.

For additional information about the Community Rating System, go to <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm>